

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates the manufacture of conjugated linoleic acid, and in particular, to feeds and food products containing conjugated linoleic acid. Accordingly, processes for producing conjugated linoelic acid of high purity are are disclosed. These processes utilize alcoholate catalyts and esters of sunflower oil, safflower oil, or corn oil as the source of linoleic acid. The esters of conjugated linoleic acid produced by the process can be used in animal feeds and in food products suitable for human consumption. Furthermore, the esters can be converted into free fatty acids or incorporated into triglycerides.

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